



Special Education Programs

SPED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Dyslexia

What is a Universal Screener?

- Brief assessments of skills or abilities
- Used to determine a student's risk for reading difficulty
- Including those who may have a learning disability such as dyslexia
- Used to determine need for interventions

Because early intervention is key to a student's learning success, screeners are an important tool for schools to use when determining the specific skill areas to address. Universal screeners help teachers make informed decisions about which evidence based interventions to use that have the highest probability of success for each student.

Please visit the sites below to view a list of approved universal screening tools compiled by the Oregon Department of Education.

• <http://doe.sd.gov/Dyslexia/>

Or

• https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/SpecialEducation/RegPrograms_BestPractice/Documents/approveduniversalscreeners.pdf

DOE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

New Interim Secretary starts.

Dr. Ben Jones joined the Department of Education Monday January 7th, 2019 as Interim Secretary. Previously, Dr. Jones served as the Dean of Dakota State University's College of Arts and Science. He is a De Smet native and now lives in Sioux Falls with his wife and three children. Read the [press release](#) to learn more. Welcome, Dr. Jones!

2019 Legislative Session.

Tuesday January 8th began the 2019 South Dakota legislative session. As a reminder, you can track bill action on the [Legislative Research Council's website](#). DOE is sponsoring two bills this year: one is a clean-up (SB 23) and one provides some flexibility for testing at the high school level (SB 24).

Abilities Dedication
Acceptance
Inclusion Evolving
Independence
Special Access
Individual Success
Unique Education
Accommodating Integration
Hope Achieve
Opportunity Challenges
Participation
Understanding

SPED STAFF:

Linda Turner, Director

Wendy Trujillo, Assistant Director

Rebecca Cain, Program Specialist

Angel Corrales, Data Manager

Melissa Flor, Program Specialist

Jodi Berscheid, 619 Coordinator

Vacant, Program Specialist

Beth Schiltz, Program Specialist

Brandi Gerry, Program Specialist

Kristin Jerome, Secretary

Regional Representative List

Contact: 605.773.3678

NEXT SPED DIRECTOR CALL:

January 15, 2019 - 10am CST

Connect through Adobe Connect:

<https://taese.adobeconnect.com/sdta>

Teleconference Line: 888-387-8686

Participant code: 747 784 2775

Agenda Items:

- ♦ IEPQ
- ♦ Early Childhood Outcomes
- ♦ Accountability Documentation
- ♦ Results Driven Accountability (RDA)

SPED PROGRAM FEATURE PRESENTATION

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY PANEL FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires the establishment of a special education advisory panel made up of diverse stakeholders who provide advice and recommendations to the State education department that is responsible for the general supervision of programs and services for eligible children with disabilities. The following by-laws and operating procedures have been adopted by the State special education advisory panel.

Panel Members

Chairperson: Erin Schons

Vice Chairperson: Larry Ayres

Panel Members:

Kim Wadsworth
Kaitlyn Ryan
Kristi Eisenbraun
Timothy Reinbold
Bernie Grimm
Stacy Haber
Heather Trefz
Peggy Waltner
Marie Ivers
Dr. Donna Johnson
Laura Johnson-Frame
Stacy Nemec
Steve Helgeland
Jennifer Carda
Tyler Munson
Larry Puthoff

Next Advisory Meeting

January 16th, 2019

For more information go to:

[Boards and Commissions Website](#)

FEDERAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

40th Annual Report to Congress Posted on ed.gov Website

The [40th Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2018](#) can be downloaded from the [ed.gov website](#). The report includes national and state-level exhibits about infants and toddlers, children, and students with disabilities served under IDEA Part C and Part B. The most recent data the report presents represent the reporting periods associated with fall 2016 or school year 2015-16. Where the report presents trend data for certain exhibits, the oldest data are associated with fall 2007 or 2006-07. In addition, the report presents summaries of

- findings and determinations resulting from the Office of Special Education (OSEP) reviews of state implementation of IDEA;
- special education research conducted under Part E of the *Education Services Reform Act of 2002*;
- national special education studies and evaluations conducted under IDEA section 664(a) and (c); and
- extent and progress of assessment of national activities related to determining the effectiveness of IDEA and improving its implementation, as required under IDEA section 664(b).

SPED PROGRAMS STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Brandi Gerry

Implementation Specialist, Region 1 Representative

Email: Brandi.Gerry@state.sd.us

Phone: 605.295.3536

As a lifelong South Dakotan, I spent most of my childhood years in Lennox, SD . I knew from a young age that I wanted a career in education and sought out opportunities to volunteer in classrooms throughout high school.

After receiving a degree in Elementary Ed/Special Ed from DSU, I spent 9 years teaching both general and special education. I developed a passion for supporting the growth of struggling readers, which drove me to pursue a graduate degree from USD in the area of Reading Specialist/Literacy Coach. I then spent 4 years providing training and support to SD teachers through Teachwell Solutions in Sioux Falls before accepting a position with the SD Department of Education.

In my role as an Implementation Specialist, I love supporting schools in the SSIP and SPDG programs as they develop strong frameworks, analyze data, and improve classroom practices. I also enjoy collaborating with other DOE staff to provide training and supports to special education teachers and schools.

My family and I live on an acreage near Parker SD. My husband is the bus and fleet mechanic for the Harrisburg School District. We have two daughters (ages 5 and 8), a dog, and lots of farm cats that keep the mice away. In my free time, I enjoy reading, crocheting, camping, and NASCAR.



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(Click on the titles to go to the registration site)

New Special Education Director Webinar Series:

This series of webinars is directed at new special education directors (0-3 years) to learn more about processes required by the Department of Education. Topics include Accountability/RDA, Child Count, Dispute Resolution, State Performance Plan (SPP), and Fiscal/Budget.

3:00pm - 4:30pm CT

- Webinar 1: Accountability/RDA - Sept. 19th
- Webinar 2: Child Count - October 18th
- Webinar 3: Dispute Resolution - November 20th
- Webinar 4: SPP/APR - December 18th
- **Webinar 5: Fiscal/Budget - January 23rd**
- TBD - Webinar 6: General Webinar - February

Conducting Effective Functional Behavior Assessments to Help write Effective Behavior Support Plans Training

March 8, 2019, Rapid City Ramkota, 8:30 -4:00 MT . Please contact Becky Cain at Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any questions.

The Center for Disabilities is offering Deaf-Blindness/Severe Disabilities online training. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)

YLF is held at NSU in Aberdeen, June 2-6, 2019. **Deadline** for delegate applications is **December 20th**. Contact your regional TSLP coordinator for more information

2019 Special Education Conference.

March 19-20, Deadwood, SD.
Registration is now open!

Winter Assessment Workshops:

The dates and locations have been set for the 2019 summative assessment workshops.

The schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 1-29-19 | Fort Pierre - Drifters Bar and Grille |
| 1-31-19 | Watertown—Lake Area Tech |
| 2-6-19 | Sioux Falls—Ramkota Hotel |
| 2-7-19 | Sioux Falls—Ramkota Hotel |
| 2-12-19 | Rapid City—Western Dakota Tech |
| 2-13-19 | Rapid City—Western Dakota Tech |

DOE RESOURCES

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

Studies show that suspension from school can cause students to be alienated from school and be labeled as troublemakers by both peers and staff. There is also a correlation between suspensions and dropout rates. Suspensions also limit the student's access to the curriculum causing them to fall further and further behind. Many schools are looking into more effective and positive alternatives to suspensions.

Please visit <https://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/182/over5.html> for some suspension alternative ideas.

Also, please visit the SDPBIS site <https://doe.sd.gov/sped/pbis.aspx> for more information on writing Behavior Support Plans and conducting effective Manifestation Determination meetings.

Please contact Becky Cain at Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any questions.